# COMMUNICATIONS The Mobile Internet – The Next Big Thing

**Electrons & Photons: You need both!** 



Dr. Steve Pappert
DARPA/MTO Symposium
March 5, 2007

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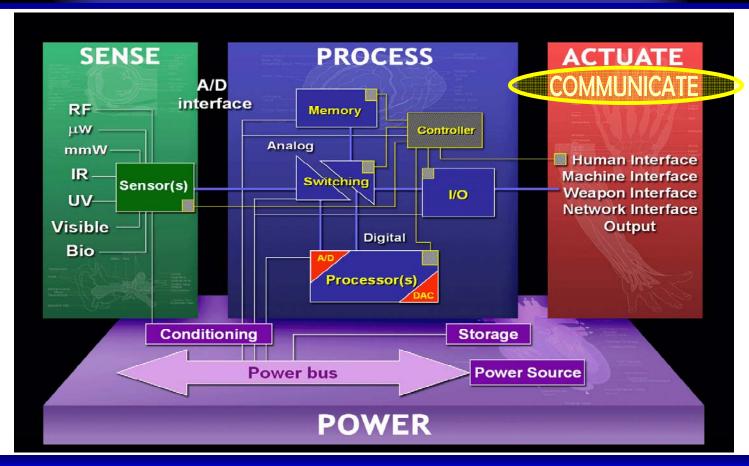
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## **Integrated Microsystem**





Communications: Voice, Video & Data Information Transfer

20th Century

Platform Centric Warfighting
Comms → Wired Interconnects & Data Links

**Network Centric Warfighting** 

Comms → Wired & Wireless Links

21th Century

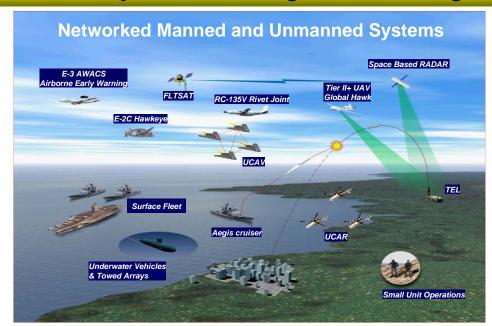


## **The Military Comms Problem**



**Network Centric Operations** 

### 21st Century RF Technologies Will Change The Way We Engage Our Adversaries



See Anything... From Anywhere... At Anytime...

PERSISTANT, STANDOFF SURVEILLANCE

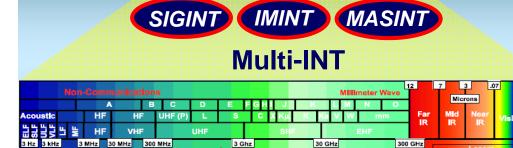
**AND** 

Provide Real-Time Global Information Distribution

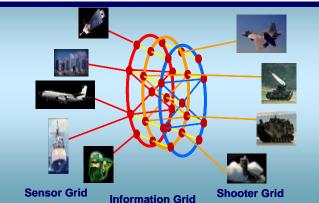
SENSOR TO SHOOTER INFORMATION GRID



## **Expanding ISR Demands**



## **Burgeoning Comms Demands**

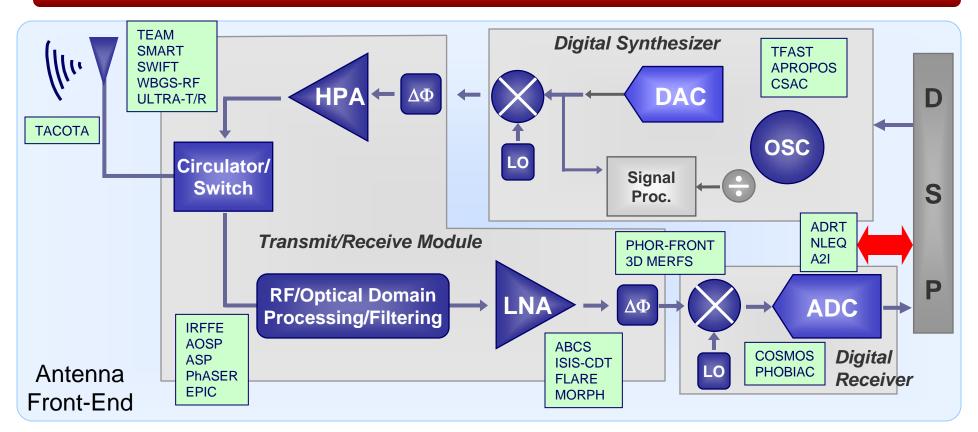




## RF Front-End Technology Trajectory On Target To Satisfy The Military Comms Problem



## DARPA's Current Programs ←→ Tommorrow RF Front-End Solutions



- >20 DARPA/MTO RF Programs across the spectrum
  - RF & Mixed Signal Electronics
  - Analog & Digital Photonics



Network Centric Warfare





## Ultimate Military Comms Solution



**Waveform/Symbol Rate Agility** 

Modulation Agility

Use modulation that is best suited for the

target environment and link

Enables variable bit rates and ulthigh

capacity per wavelength

**BPSK** 

1 bit/symbol

QPSK 2 bits/symbol

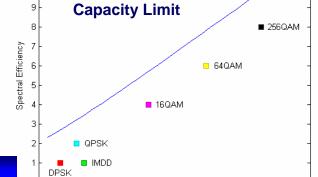
16-QAM

4 bits/symbol

Driven by Capacity, Availability & Security

## Spectrally efficient adaptive multi-level frequency hopping coherent waveforms

- Multi-level complex waveforms for high-capacity (short-up emitter)
- Waveform agility for SNR utilization
- Multi-dimensional diversity for link availability, LPI/LPD, anti-jam & security (e.g. frequency, polarization, spatial, ...)
- <u>Coherent detection</u> brings sensitivity and enables DSP channel compensation



20 SNR [dB]

**Link Capacity** 

Approaching Shannon

15

Shannon

Limit

25

**Software Defined Agile Modems** 

#### **Unified JTRS-Like RF to Optical Transmission Architecture** "RF" 2 Polarization I,Q 2 Polarization I,Q Coherent Coherent **Synthesizer Analyzer** DC to **Band Band** Daylight (Vector Modulator) (Coherent Receiver) **Translation Translation** Aperture & **Baseband** Baseband **Transmission** I & Q Data Channel & Q Data "IF" (Air/Space/Water) "IF" DC to DC to Daylight **Daylight**

Overlaying Free-Space Optical Communications Brings Added Capacity & Security



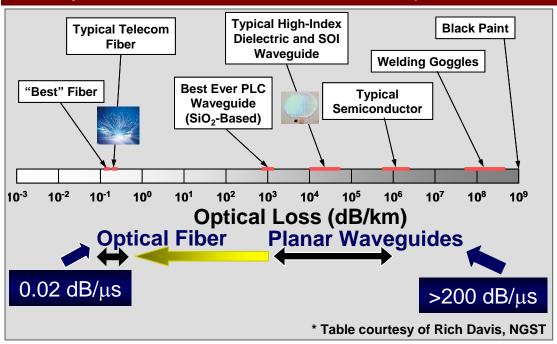
## Big Optical Challenge/Opportunity: Hyperfine Optical Filtering

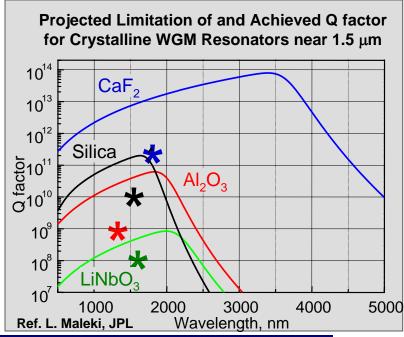


Ultra-Low Loss Photonic Waveguides & Resonators

#### **Problems:**

- Today's PIC waveguides have losses closer to Black Paint than to Optical Fibers!
- Today's resonator Q's are well below the predicted limitations





### **Opportunity:**

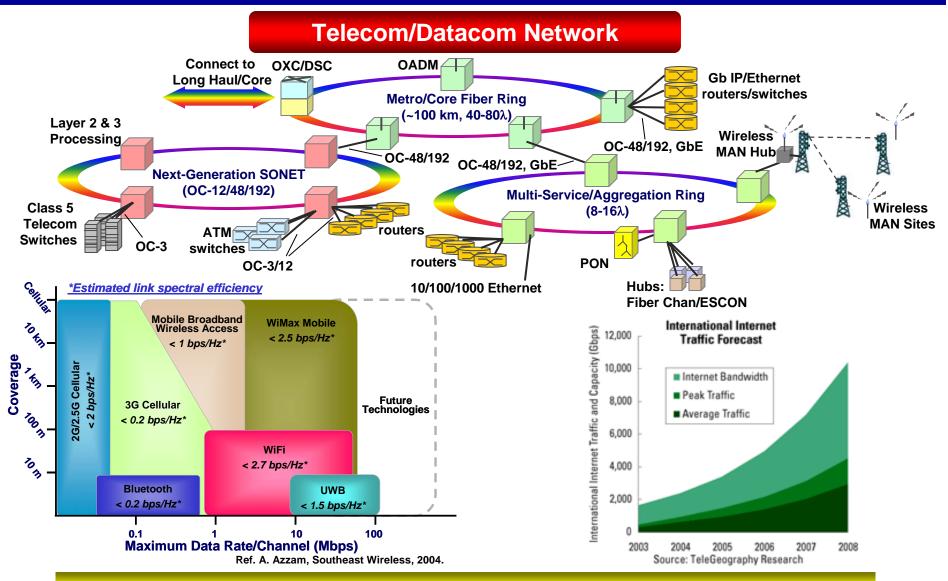
• Orders of magnitude (>10²) improvement in optical waveguide & resonator loss enables agile RF processing & filtering on a chip (high resolution I /Q optical processors)

"Radical Improvements in Chip-Scale Passive Optical
Waveguides & Resonators Are Still To Come" - Steve Pappert, 2007



## **What About Commercial Comms?**

Driven by Capacity (bits/sec/Hz) & Affordability (Mbits/\$)



Can we affordably bring the bandwidth of the core to the mobile user?

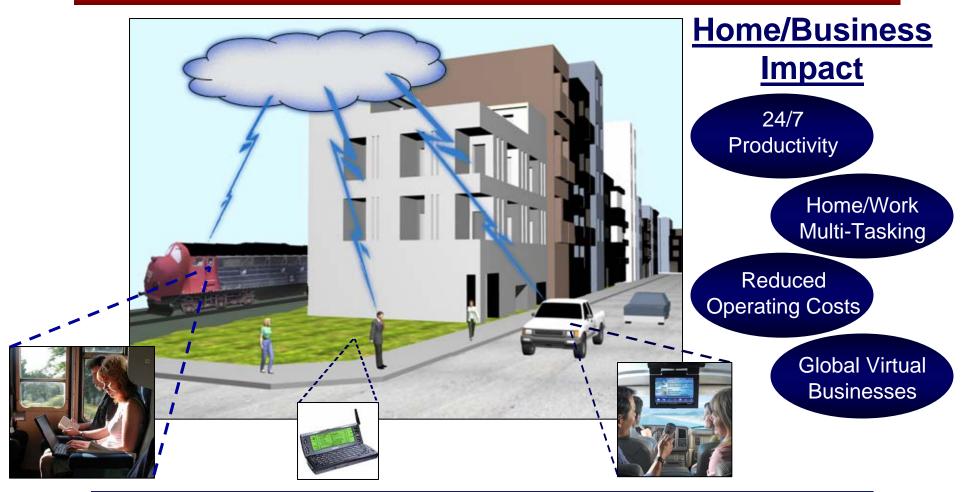


## **The Commercial Comms Vision**



The Mobile Internet

## **Today's Wired Capacity** → **Tomorrow Land's Wireless Capacity**



## The Mobile Internet

Multi-Mbps Voice, Video, Data Services Available Per User On Demand



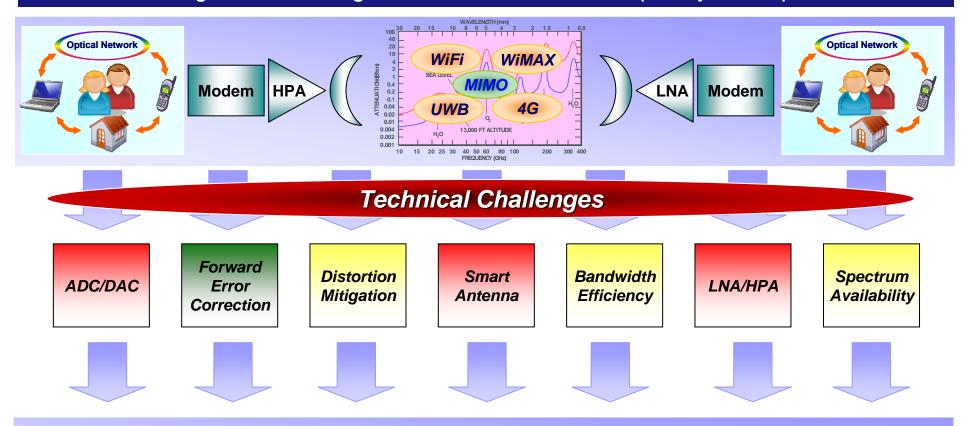
## The Mobile Internet



How Do We Get There?

## **The Last-mile Solution**

Novel technologies maximizing the utilization of time, frequency, and spatial domains



Bandwidth & Spectral Efficiency → Millions of Available Multi-Mbps Channels



## Big Electronic Challenge/Opportunity: Increased Bandwidth & Linearity



Power & Low Noise Amplifier, Mixer, ADC/DAC

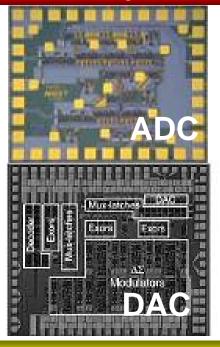
#### **Problems:**

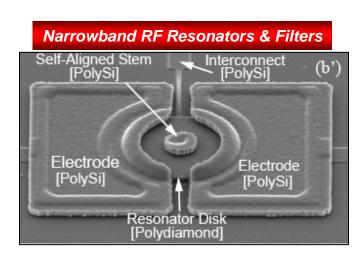
- Today's ADCs/DACs have limited bandwidth-resolution product with high power consumption
- Today's Front-End RF electronics have severe linearity limitations

#### **Opportunity:**

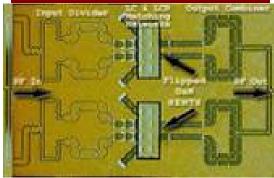
- Bandgap engineered materials & heterogeneous materials & device integration for optimum RF performance
- Capitalize on remarkable DSP advances to push RF performance beyond material limitations

#### InP Electronic Mixed Signal IC technologies









**Towards THz Transistors** 



"Dramatic Advances in RF & Mixed Signal Electronics Are Still To Come" -Steve Pappert, 2007



## Military & Commercial Mobile Communications



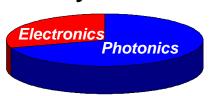
Summary of Key Technology Enablers

#### **Commercial Comms Enabler Portfolio**



- Capacity
- Affordability

### **Military Comms Enabler Portfolio**



- Security/Anti-Jam
- Link Availability

### **Electronics**

- Higher-speed, low power DSP
- Higher-speed mixed signal circuits
- Sub-MMW electronics
- Linear amplifiers & mixers
- Narrow-band fast-tunable RF filters

#### **Photonics**

- λ-stable low phase noise optical oscillators
- Optical Phased-Locked-Loops (OPLLs)
- Narrow-band fast-tunable optical filters
- Optical phased arrays
- Opto-Electronic Integration

IF we are successful, revolutionary increases in mobile communication data rates will be available for ...

- (1) warfighters and commanders, providing coordinated situational awareness for tactical and strategic superiority.
- (2) individuals and businesses, providing coordinated situational awareness for tactical and strategic superiority.

At the end of the day, we are all after the same objective ...

See Anything, From Anywhere, At Anytime; and the mobile internet will take us there using *Electrons* & *Photons*!